



COUNTY OF FRESNO

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 17, 2016

INMATE RELEASED EARLY FROM PRISON ON “NON VIOLENT” SECOND STRIKE RELEASE PROGRAM PLEADS TO NEW FELONIES

Matthew Wayne Roberts, age 25, pled no contest today to felony charges of Vehicle Theft and Possession of a Stolen Vehicle, and admitted a Violent Felony prior conviction under the “Three Strikes” Law and to having been committed twice before to State Prison. His maximum exposure on the charges is 10 years in prison, but he was promised a judicial plea bargain for a sentence of only 4 years. Sentencing is scheduled for June 15, 2016, in Department 20 of the Fresno County Superior Court before Commissioner Brant K. Bramer.

On April 5th of this year, Roberts fled from police in a stolen Acura Integra, driving towards a school zone at speeds approaching 100 mph. The pursuit ended after law enforcement deployed a “stop stick” which disabled the stolen vehicle. The defendant then attempted to flee on foot and was quickly arrested.

The defendant committed these new felonies after being released early from prison on November 12, 2015, by the Board of Parole Hearings pursuant to the “Non Violent” Second Strike Release program. The defendant was originally committed to prison in that case on March 4, 2014, for a term of 44 months. He had been convicted in that case of Vehicle Theft and Evading a Police Officer, as well as admitting a Strike prior and a prior prison commitment. In that case, the defendant was driving a stolen vehicle and fled from police at speeds of over 90 mph. That pursuit ended when the defendant hit a curb while exiting the freeway, ejecting him from the motorcycle.

Roberts has a prior violent felony conviction for 1st Degree Residential Burglary in 2011. He was committed to prison for that offense, as well as for a prior Burglary in 2009, for which he was on Felony Probation.

The new offenses are the defendant’s fifth and sixth felony convictions. He will again be eligible for the “Non Violent” Second Strike Release Program for this prison commitment.

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